

a receiver unit connected to one end of the communications line, said receiver unit including a signal generator for generating a signal uniquely representing a characteristic of the communications line to be measured and a signal transmitter for transmitting the generated signal; and

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cont

a sender unit connected to another end of the communication line, said sender unit including a signal detector that detects the signal transmitted from the receiver unit, measurement-related circuits, and a switching circuit controlled in accordance with the detected signal to selectively connect at least one of the measurement-related circuits across the communications line to enable the characteristic of the communications line to be measured.

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33. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the receiver unit further comprises:

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measurement-related circuits; and
a switching circuit for connecting at least one of the measurement-related circuits across the communication line to enable the characteristic of the communications line to be measured.

Please add the following new claims 34-43:

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--34. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications line is a single line pair and the predetermined circuitry is connected between the two lines of the single line pair.

35. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the communications line is a single line pair and the predetermined circuitry is connected between the two lines of the single line pair.

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36. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the communications line is a single line pair and the predetermined circuitry is connected between the two lines of the single line pair.

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37. Apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the communications line is a single line pair and the predetermined circuitry is connected between the two lines of the single line pair.

38. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the communications line is a single line pair and the measurement-related circuits are connected between the two lines of the single line pair.

39. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the characteristic of the line has a meter-based numeric value and the measurement-related circuits connected across the line at the another end enable the numeric value of the characteristic to be measured from the one end.

40. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the sender unit is connected between the receiver unit and an exchange switch and the measurement-related circuits include an incoming call-preventing circuit that prevents calls supplied to the sender unit from the exchange switch from being connected to the communications line.

41. Apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the incoming call-preventing circuit comprises a resistor.

42. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the measurement-related circuits connected across the communications line comprise an oscillator.

43. Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the receiver unit includes a push-button panel operable by a user for randomly selecting the characteristic of the communications line to be measured, and a display for displaying a numeric value of the selected characteristic.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Applicant again notes that this application does not claim priority from EP 98304101.3.